

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:RWMURPHY:AIC

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

REF: DAMASCUS 1594

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TO PRESIDENT ASAD FOR PRESENTATION OF LETTER OF CREDENCE CEREMONY. EM-BASSY SHOULD HAVE THEM TRANSLATED TO ARABIC AND ENGLISH AND ARABIC TEXTS TYPED IN APPROPRIATE FORMAT. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED GIVE SYRIANS ADVANCE COPY.

QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT: I AM INDEED PLEASED AND HONORED TO COME BEFORE YOU TODAY AS THE FIRST AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA AFTER AN ABSENCE OF SEVEN YEARS. THOSE OF US WHO SERVED IN SYRIA IN THE PAST, AND WHO KNEW ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE, FELT ASPECIAL REGRET AT THE BREAK IN RELATIONS. BUT MY GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEVER CEASED TO HOPE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD ONCE AGAIN ARRIVE TO RE-ESTABLISH OUR DIALOGUE.

THANKS TO THE WISDOM AND PERSPICACITY OF YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS WELL AS TO THE DETERMINED AND FAR-REACHING EFFORTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, OUR TWO PEOPLES AND OUR TWO GOVERN-
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MENTS NOW FIND THEMSELVES ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW PHASE IN THE

HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES.
I DO NOT MINIMIZE THE MAGNITUDE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE

ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT US BUT AM CONVINCED THAT ON THE
BASIS OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TRUST, OUR TWO PEOPLES AND
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN OVERCOME THEM AND PROCEED TOGETHER
TO A NEW ERA OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL THE
PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. MY GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESIDENT
FORD REMAINS COMMITTED TO THIS GOAL.

I KNOW THERE IS AN OLD ARAB SAYING THAT QUOTE ONE HAND
ALONE CANNOT CLAP END QUOTE. IN MY OWN COUNTRY, WE SAY
QUOTE TWO HANDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE END QUOTE. I PLEDGE
TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT MY HAND AND HEART ARE READY
TO WORK WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE ON THE
PATH WHICH TOGETHER WE HAVE CHARTED -- A PATH WHICH LEADS
TO JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOR THE EN-
TIRE WORLD. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN
ACHIEVE THIS NOBLE GOAL AND KNOW THAT I CAN RELY ON BOTH
YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOUR PEOPLE TO HELP ME IN THIS TASK.

FINALLY, MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO
SUBMIT TO YOU MY LETTERS OF CREDENCE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT
RICHARD M. NIXON. THESE LETTERS ALSO COME WITH THE GREET-
INGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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